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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTION IN THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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Theme: Education and training of women

As a major critical area of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, the issue of inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training calls for strategic action.

Zonta International pursues the cause of scientific education for women with the Amelia Earhart Fellowships which are given to women of any nationality pursuing a graduate degree in aerospace-related science or engineering at any fully accredited graduate college or university.

Since the start of the fellowships in 1938, more than 800 awards, totalling US$ 3.7 million, have been given to more than 500 women from over 40 countries. The international nature of the programme is perhaps its most important feature. These fellowships are the tangible vehicle for enabling highly competent women from all regions of the world to increase their participation in fields largely dominated by men. Through such participation, the status of women is improved, social conditions and traditions are challenged constructively and the whole world benefits.

Governments are urged to encourage the scientific education of women.

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